

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for creating test item models and generating test item variants comprising the steps of:
 - a. obtaining a test item;
 - b. creating a test item model by:
 - i. identifying elements of the test item to be variabilized,
 - ii. variabilizing the elements to create variables, and
 - iii. defining the variables; and
 - c. generating a test item variant using a simultaneous constraint solver.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said model creation further comprises specifying constraints that define the relationship among the variables.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 further comprising the step of accepting and retrievably storing the test item variant.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of accepting and retrievably storing the test item model.
5. (Previously Presented) A computerized method for generating test item variants, the method comprising:
 - b. identifying elements of a test item or a test item model to be variabilized;
 - c. variabilizing the identified elements;
 - d. defining the variables;
 - e. specifying constraints;
 - f. using a simultaneous constraint solver to determine values for the variables; and
 - g. generating test item variants.

6-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A computerized method for generating test item variants from test item models comprising:

- a. retrievably storing test item models;
- b. selecting a test item model;
- c. simultaneously solving test item model constraints and generating test item solutions; and
- e. displaying, accepting and retrievably storing valid test item solutions.

14. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 13 wherein the step of retrievably storing test item models comprises:

- a. obtaining a test item;
- b. identifying elements of the test item to be variabilized;
- c. variabilizing the elements to create variables;
- d. defining the variables; and
- e. accepting the variabilized test item with defined variables as a test item model.

15. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 13 further comprising specifying constraints that define the relationship among the variables.

16. (Original) The computerized method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of displaying and retrievably storing the accepted test item model.

17. (Original) The computerized method of claim 14 wherein the test item model constraints are simultaneously solved using PROLOG IV and Test Creation Assistant constraint language.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Original) The computerized method of claim 14 wherein variables can be defined by values which are variables.

20. (Original) The computerized method of claim 15 wherein the variables are new variables for which new constraints are defined as needed.